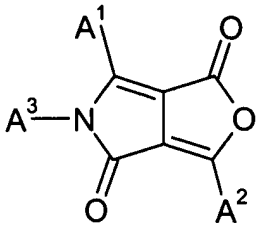
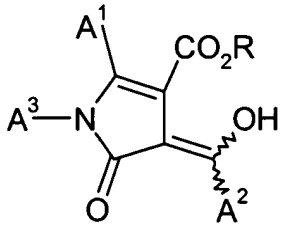
In the claims:

1. **(currently amended):** A process for the preparation of furopyrroles of the general formula



(I), comprising

(a) heating a compound of the formula



(II) under microwave irradiation optionally in the presence of an inert solvent,

wherein $A^1$ and $A^2$ are $C_1$-$C_{18}$alkyl, $C_2$-$C_{18}$alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_{18}$alkynyl, $C_5$-$C_8$cycloalkyl, $C_5$-$C_8$cycloalkenyl, aryl or heteroaryl,

$A^3$ is hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_{18}$alkyl, cyanomethyl, $Ar^3$, $-CR^{30}R^{31}-(CH_2)_m-Ar^3$ or $Y-R^{32}$, wherein $R^{30}$ and $R^{31}$ independently of each other stand for hydrogen or $C_1$-$C_4$alkyl, or phenyl which can be substituted up to three times with $C_1$-$C_4$alkyl,

$Ar^3$ stands for aryl, $C_5$-$C_8$cycloalkyl, $C_5$-$C_8$cycloalkenyl or heteroaryl, which can be substituted one to three times with $C_1$-$C_8$alkyl, $C_1$-$C_8$alkoxy, halogen or phenyl, which can be substituted with $C_1$-$C_8$alkyl or $C_1$-$C_8$alkoxy one to three times, and m stands for 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4,

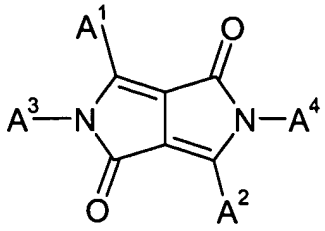
R is $C_1$-$C_{18}$alkyl, ~~in particular $C_4$-$C_4$alkyl,~~ aryl, ~~in particular phenyl,~~ or aralkyl, in ~~particular benzyl,~~ which can be substituted one to three times with $C_1$-$C_8$alkyl, $C_1$-$C_8$alkoxy, or halogen,

Y is –C(O)-, -C(O)O-, -C(O)NH-, $-SO_2NH-$ or $-SO_2-$ and

$R^{32}$ is $C_1$-$C_{18}$alkyl, $Ar^3$, or aralkyl.

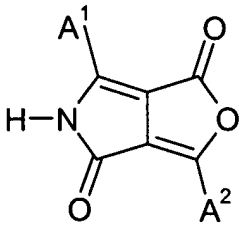
2. **(currently amended):** The process according to claim 1, comprising in addition

reacting a compound of formula I with a primary amine of the formula $A^4$-$NH_2$ (IV), wherein a

DPP of formula  ~~formula~~ III is obtained,

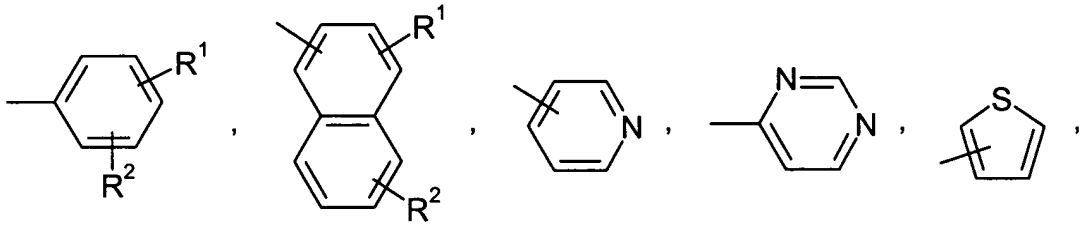
wherein $A^4$ is $C_1$-$C_{18}$alkyl or $Ar^3$, wherein $Ar^3$, $A^1$, $A^2$ and $A^3$ are defined as in claim 1.

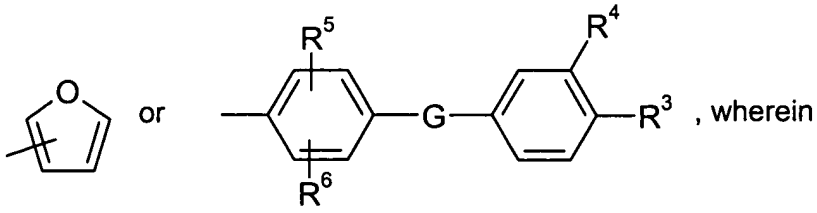
3. **(original):** The process according to claim 1, wherein the compound of the formula I, wherein $A^3$ is different from a hydrogen atom, is obtained by reacting a compound of the formula

 (Ia) with a compound of the formula $A^3$-X (V), wherein $A^1$, $A^2$ and $A^3$ have

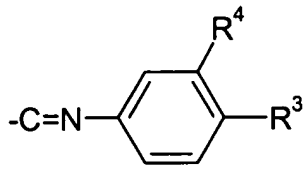
the meanings as given in claim 1 and X is a leaving group.

4. **(currently amended):** The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein $A^1$ and $A^2$ are radicals of the formula



 , wherein

$R^1$ and $R^2$ are independently of each other hydrogen, halogen, $C_1$-$C_{18}$alkyl, $C_1$-$C_{18}$alkoxy, $C_1$-$C_{18}$alkylmercapto, $C_1$-$C_{18}$alkylamino, $C_1$-$C_{18}$alkoxycarbonyl, $C_1$-$C_{18}$alkylaminocarbonyl, -CN, -$NO_2$, trifluoromethyl, $C_5$-$C_8$cycloalkyl, -C=N-

($C_1$-$C_{18}$alkyl), phenyl,  , imidazolyl, pyrrazolyl, triazolyl,

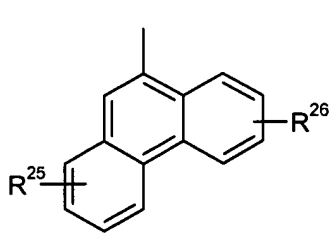
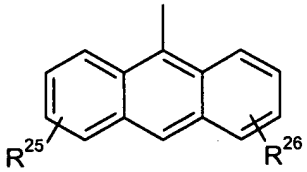
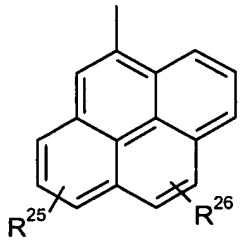
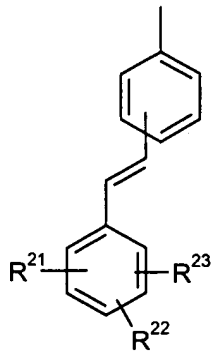
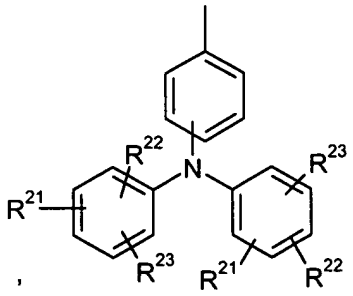
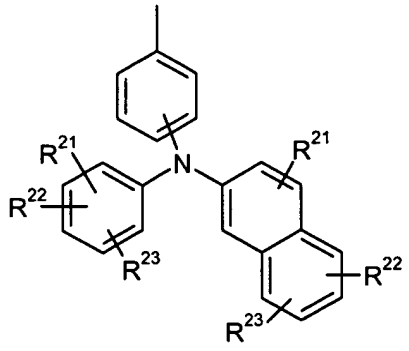
piperazinyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, morpholinyl, piperidinyl or pyrrolidinyl, $-CONX^5X^6$, $-C(O)OX^7$ or $-SO_2X^9$; wherein $X^5$ and $X^6$ are hydrogen, linear or branched $C_{1-10}$-alkyl, $C_{5-10}$-cycloalkyl or $C_{6-10}$-aryl, $X^7$ is hydrogen, linear or branched $C_{1-10}$-alkyl, $C_{5-10}$-cycloalkyl or $C_{6-10}$-aryl, $X^9$ is hydrogen, linear or branched $C_{1-10}$-alkyl, $C_{5-10}$-cycloalkyl, $C_{7-10}$-aralkyl, $C_{6-10}$-aryl or $-NX^{10}X^{11}$, wherein $X^{10}$ and $X^{11}$ are hydrogen, linear or branched $C_{1-10}$-alkyl, $C_{7-10}$-aralkyl or $C_{6-10}$-aryl,

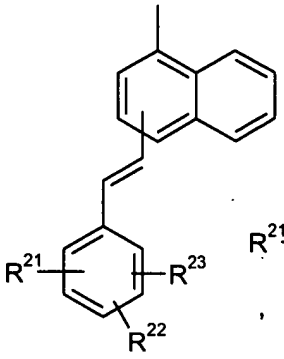
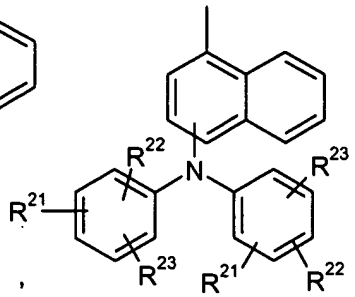
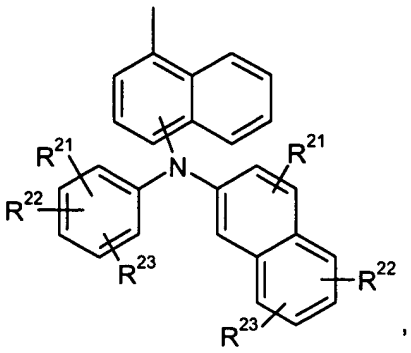
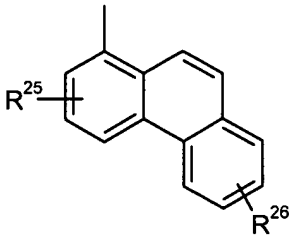
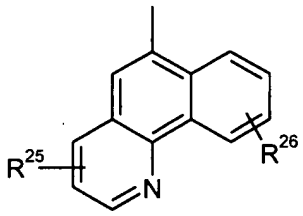
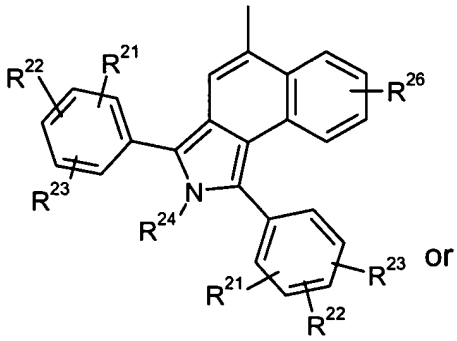
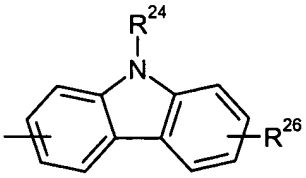
G is $-CH_2-$, $-CH(CH_3)-$, $-C(CH_3)_2-$, -CH=N-, -N=N-, -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-SO_2NH-$, -CONH- or $-NR^7-$,

$R^3$ and $R^4$ are independently of each other hydrogen, halogen, $C_1$-$C_6$alkyl, $C_1$-$C_{18}$alkoxy or -CN,

$R^5$ and $R^6$ are independently of each other hydrogen, halogen or $C_1$-$C_6$alkyl, and $R^7$ is hydrogen or $C_1$-$C_6$alkyl;

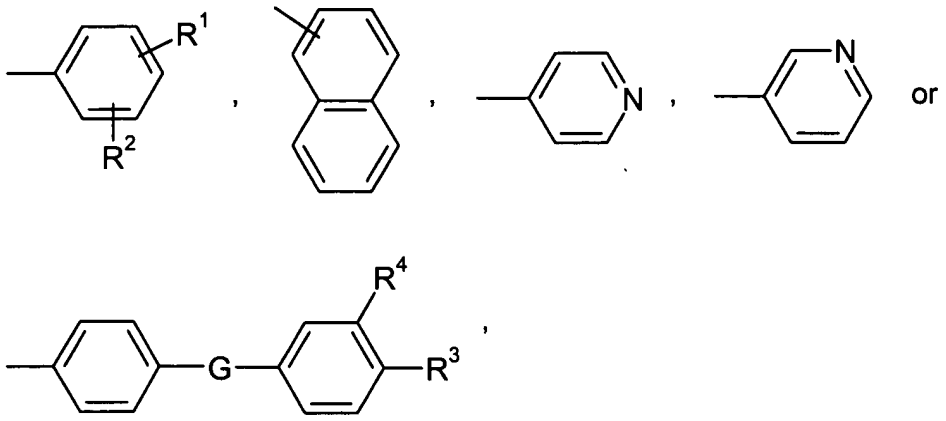
or $A^1$ and $A^2$ are radicals of the formula

wherein $R^{21}$, $R^{22}$, $R^{23}$, $R^{25}$ and $R^{26}$ are independently of each other hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$alkyl, a hydroxyl group, a mercapto group, $C_1$-$C_8$alkoxy, $C_1$-$C_8$alkylthio, halogen, halo-$C_1$-$C_8$alkyl, a cyano group, an aldehyde group, a ketone group, a carboxyl group, an ester group, a carbamoyl group, an amino group, a nitro group, a silyl group or a siloxanyl group and
$R^{24}$ is a $C_1$-$C_6$alkyl group.

5. **(original):** The process according to claim 4, wherein $A^1$ and $A^2$ are radicals of the formula



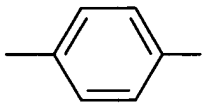
wherein $R^1$ and $R^2$ are independently of each other hydrogen, chloro, bromo, $C_1$-$C_4$alkyl, $C_1$-$C_6$alkoxy, $C_1$-$C_6$alkylamino, phenyl or CN,

G is -O-, -$NR^7$-, -N=N- or -$SO_2$- ,

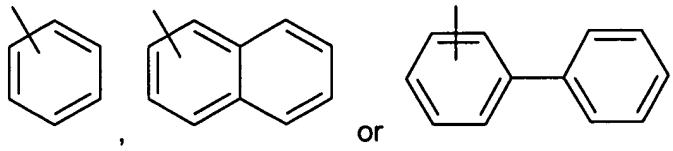
$R^3$ and $R^4$ are hydrogen, and

$R^7$ is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl.

6. **(currently amended):** The process according to claim ~~4 or 5~~, wherein $A^3$ is cyanomethyl, $C_1$-$C_8$alkyl ~~such as methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, sec.-butyl, isobutyl, tert.-butyl, n-pentyl, 2-pentyl, 3-pentyl, 2,2-dimethylpropyl, n-hexyl, n-heptyl, n-octyl, 1,1,3,3-tetramethylbutyl and 2-ethylhexyl~~, Y-$R^{32}$ wherein Y is –C(O)- and $R^{32}$ is

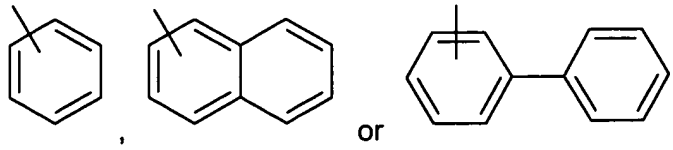

, wherein $R^{40}$ is $C_1$-$C_4$alkyl, -O-$C_1$-$C_4$alkyl, or –S-$C_1$-$C_4$alkyl, or

-$(CH_2)_m$-Ar wherein m is 1 and Ar is a group of the formula



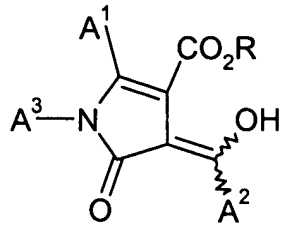
which can be substituted one to three times with $C_1$-$C_8$alkyl, $C_1$-$C_8$alkoxy, halogen or phenyl.

7. **(currently amended):** The process according to ~~any of claims 4 to 6~~ claim 4, wherein $A^4$ is



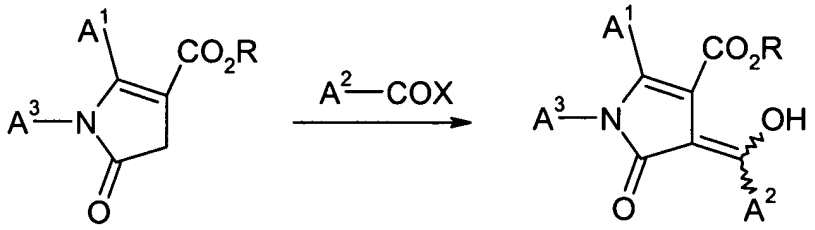
which can be substituted one to three times with $C_1$-$C_8$alkyl, $C_1$-$C_8$alkoxy, halogen or phenyl.

8. **(currently amended):** The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the starting compound of formula (II)



(II)

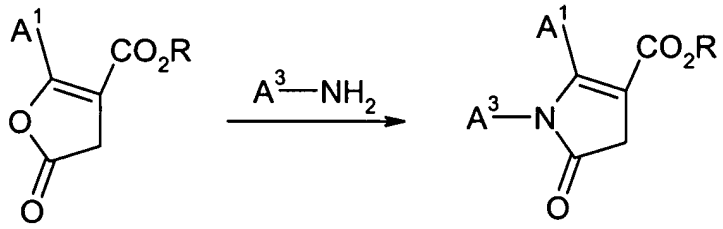
is obtained by reacting a compound of formula (VIII) with an acyl halide $A^2$ –COX:



(VIII) (II)

wherein R, $A^1$ and $A^2$ have the same meaning as given in claim 1, $A^3$ is aryl, and X is halogen.~~, preferably chlorine.~~

9. **(original):** The process according to claim 8, wherein the compound of formula (VIII) is obtained by reacting a compound of formula (IIb) with an amine $A^3$ -$NH_2$:



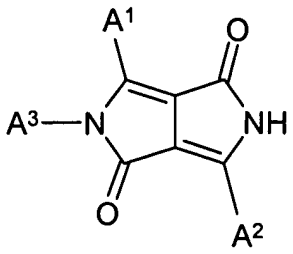
(IIb) (VIII)

wherein R and $A^1$ have the same meaning as given in claim 1 and $A^3$ is aryl

10. **(currently amended):** The process according to claim ~~8 or 9~~, wherein $A^2$ –COX is benzoyl chloride and

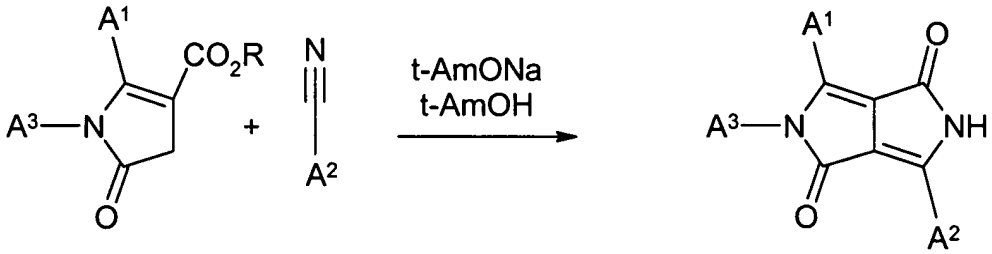
$A^3$ -$NH_2$ is aniline.

11. **(currently amended):** A process for the preparation of a DPP of general formula:



(III), comprising

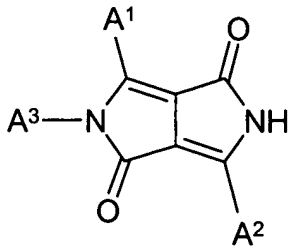
reacting a compound of formula (VIII) with a nitrile $A^2$–CN, preferably ~~benzonitril:~~




(VIII) (III)

wherein $A^1$, $A^2$ and $A^3$ have the meanings as given in claim 1.

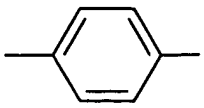
12. **(original):** A DPP of general formula (III)



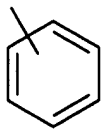
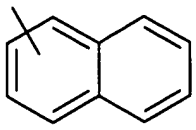
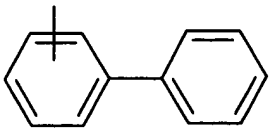
wherein $A^1$, $A^2$ and $A^3$ have the meanings as given in claim 1.

13. **(new):** A process according to claim 1, wherein R is $C_1$-$C_4$alkyl, phenyl, or benzyl, which can be substituted one to three times with $C_1$-$C_8$alkyl, $C_1$-$C_8$alkoxy, or halogen.

14. **(new):** A process according to claim 5, wherein $A^3$ is cyanomethyl, $C_1$-$C_8$alkyl, Y-$R^{32}$ wherein Y is –C(O)- and $R^{32}$ is


$R^{40}$, wherein $R^{40}$ is $C_1$-$C_4$alkyl, -O-$C_1$-$C_4$alkyl, or –S-$C_1$-$C_4$alkyl, or

-$(CH_2)_m$-Ar wherein m is 1 and Ar is a group of the formula


, 
or 
,

which can be substituted one to three times with $C_1$-$C_8$alkyl, $C_1$-$C_8$alkoxy, halogen or phenyl.